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Proposals to solve the housing problem in urban and semi-urban areas.

* 19 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state what effective measures are proposed to solve the problem of housing in urban and semi-urban areas besides the organization of the house building societies and whether the recommendations of the Provincial Housing Committee have been considered in that regard?

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI:—"Besides the organization of house building societies, the following measures have been taken by Government to solve the problem of housing in the Madras City:—

(1) The Government have sanctioned five schemes of the Madras City Improvement Trust for providing houses and house-sites to the poor, and middle class people. Four more schemes are pending sanction of Government.

(2) The Collector of Madras has been instructed to examine the question of putting more than one family in big houses taken over and allotted under the Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Act, 1949.

(3) The Government are considering a proposal to move out of Madras City some of the offices which have no Presidency or regional jurisdiction with Madras as a central point. As regards the action taken on the recommendations of the Housing Committee, the attention of the hon. Member is invited to the statement laid on the table of the House in reply to the hon. Member's own Unstarred Question No. 1 of 17th November 1949. The Government are taking such action as is feasible in respect of the various recommendations of the Housing Committee."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—"Is the question of the removal of the offices of the Central Government also under the consideration of the Government, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI:—"Yes, Sir."

JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI:—"May I know, Sir, what is the number of houses actually built by the Government, or with the help of the Government finance to relieve the housing shortage?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI:—"A separate question may be put, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Government are requisitioning buildings which were once used for residential purposes, for locating their offices or for other non-residential purposes?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI:—"When it is absolutely necessary, Sir, we shall have to convert residential into non-residential buildings."

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Are the Government aware that this is one of the causes for the present housing shortage? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" We cannot help it, Sir. When it is absolutely necessary that we must have some office in a particular locality, say for instance, for the location of a ration office, we cannot but requisition private buildings and convert them into non-residential buildings. But such cases are very rare, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Will the Government examine again how many residential houses have been converted for non-residential purposes, and whether it would not be possible for the Government to release such houses for residential accommodation again? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" I can assure the hon. Member, Sir, that such houses will be only very small in number, and wherever it is possible to release them for residential purposes, we shall certainly do so."

Allegations against the agent for import of sugar.

* 20 Q.—JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government are allowing sugar to be imported and sold in excess of the ration, at a very high price, by an agent;

(b) if so, who the agent is; and

(c) the reasons that prompted the Government to appoint him as agent?

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" (a) No.

" (b) & (c) Do not arise. "

Opening of High Schools in Penukonda taluk, Anantapur district.

* 21 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO (on behalf of Sri B. Bhima Rao) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Director of Public Instruction issued orders for the opening of high schools both at Kothacheruvu and Bukkapatnam in Penukonda taluk of Anantapur district; and

(b) whether the Government have cancelled the said orders and, if so, for what reasons?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" (a) The Director accorded permission for the opening of a high school at Bukkapatnam subject to conditions and informed the President, District Board, that the Director would have no objection to a school at Kothacheruvu also if the District Board's finances would permit it.